

R E M A R K S

This amendment is requested to be entered simultaneously with filing this application.


Claims 1-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and claims 11-22 are presented therefor which incorporate the subject matter of claims 1-10, present the claims in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC 112 and eliminate multiple-dependent form claims.

No multiple-dependent claims exist in this application as of the filing date and no multiple-dependent claim fees apply.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the specification changes.

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the claim fees and prior to an action on the merits, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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USA Patent Application
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COMBINATION INSTRUMENT
FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE

Priority: German Patent Application
100 26 892.7 filed May 30, 2000

Marked-UP version of Spec Paragraph page 2, line 16

The object is achieved by means of the features of the [first claim] present invention. [The dependent claims indicate advantageous embodiments and developments of the solution found.] The solution is [characterized in particular by the fact that in the combination instrument] featured by a light-guiding plate [is] provided in the combination instrument,

- into which ambient light is injected from inside or from outside the motor vehicle,
- in which the injected ambient light is guided by means of total reflection at the side of the LC display facing away from the viewer, and
- which has, at the side of the LC display facing away from the viewer, a coating or a structure for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate there and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display.

Further solution features are

- that the LC display is of transmissive design,
- that the light-guiding plate is composed of plastic,
- that the coating of the light-guiding plate is white and highly reflective,

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- that analog display devices with scales are also provided in the combination instrument, and that the light-guiding plate has a structure or coating which is suitable for the selective extraction of light both in the region of the scales for their divisions and/or division indications, and in the region of the display face of the LC display,
- that a photosensor is provided which, without being directly influenced by the ambient light, simply senses the intensity of the light present in the light-guiding plate, that, furthermore, LEDs are provided which inject their light into the light-guiding plate and that the intensity of the light emitted by the LEDs is controlled as a function of the light sensed by the photosensor,
- that the LEDs used in conjunction with the photosensor emit white light for a transition from daylight operation to night-time operation which is as neutrally colored as possible,
- that the light-guiding plate extends out of the housing of the combination instrument up to the windshield of the motor vehicle, as a result of which light which is incident into the motor vehicle through the windshield can be injected into the light-guiding plate with minimum possible obstruction,
- that the light-guiding plate which extends out of the housing of the combination instrument is embedded in the dashboard of the motor vehicle, and the dashboard has, in the region in front of the windshield, an opening for the

injection of the ambient light into the light-guiding plate,

- that the light-guiding plate is provided in the region in front of the windshield with suitable structures or a coating which reduces the refractive index, said structures or coating promoting the injection of the ambient light into the light-guiding plate.

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